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Natural Resources and the
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Reapportionment and Redistricting
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The State Senate

Atlanta, Georgia 30334

February 05, 2003

Country of Origin Labeling
Agriculture Marketing Service, USDA
William T. Session, Associate Deputy of Admin.
Stop 0249 Room 2092
1400 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, DC 20250-0249

Dear Mr. Sessions,

I am a pecan grower with 350 acres in Thomas County Georgia. The farm has been in my family for four generations. Having been involved in farming all of my life, I have seen a lot of advancements in the growing of quality pecans. I have also seen in recent years a change in national policy on importing and exporting with the adoption of NAFTA.

With the difference in food safety requirements in the United States versus competitors, I feel it is important to have labeling requirements of the Country of Origin on pecans. This is important to not only U.S. consumers, but also buyers of U.S. pecans so that they can be assured of the quality that we strive to have coming out of this country.

In my capacity as the Georgia State Senate Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Chairman, I represent Georgia growers and promote Georgia products. I feel the need for the consideration of Country of Origin Labeling is very necessary to promote our grower's products.

Thank you for your time and effort in considering this request. If you have any questions please feel free to contact my office at (404) 463-1314.

Sincerely,

John Bulloch
11th Senatorial District

JB/lml